QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—*contd.*

Retrenching the Number of Superintending Engineers.

Q.—39. **Mr. K. MARULAPPA** (Kadur Taluk).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of Superintending Engineers in the Engineering Department in the Mysore State ;

(*b*) whether it is possible to retrench at least two of them ?

A.—**The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (Diwan Bahadur N. N. Ayyangar).**—

(*a*) Three.

(*b*) No.

Funds of the Coffee Experimental Station.

Q.—41. **Mr. ALFRED MIDDLETON** (Special Interests).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the amount spent annually on the control of Coffee Stem Borer Beetle come from the funds allotted to the Coffee Experimental Station, Balehonnur ;

(*b*) if funds of the Station are depleted to carry out extraordinary measures, whether the regular programme of experimental work does not suffer ?

A.—**The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (Mr. M. Venkatanaranappa).**—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. The funds are sufficient to meet both these items of expenditure.

Mr. ALFRED MIDDLETON.—Why should the funds intended for experimental work be diverted for any extraordinary measures ?

The DIRECTOR of AGRICULTURE (Mr. T. G. Rama Iyer).—According to the Government Order defining the purposes for which coffee cess funds may be used, the funds can be used not only for research but also for any cognate objects which the Government approve of, and this is one of such objects.

Mr. ALFRED MIDDLETON.—My point is that the funds are not enough for the main purposes of the Experimental Station, and that therefore they should not be diverted for any other objects.

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—It is only when there is sufficient balance left after meeting the regular programme of experimental work, that funds are diverted to allied objects.

Mr. ALFRED MIDDLETON.—Why not augment the grant to the Experimental Station ?

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—If the funds already granted are utilised and the need for additional funds is felt, we can consider that question.

Srimathi D. SAKAMMA.—Is any portion of the grant meant for the Experimental Station used for combating the borer pest ? Is combating the pest not a function of the department itself ?

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—The cost of the establishment maintained for the control of the borer beetle is borne from coffee cess funds this year. But the expenditure on items like removal of the affected plants should be borne by the planters concerned.

Srimathi D. SAKAMMA.—What are the details of the establishment referred to ?

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—It consists of 2 junior entomologists and 20 fieldmen.

Srimathi D. SAKAMMA.—Is there no need for increasing the staff ?

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—This year we have spent about Rs. 6,000 on combating this pest. The work is going on briskly.

Mr. MIR MAHOMED SAB.—How far are the coffee planters benefited by the removal of the affected plants ?

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—There is no doubt that they are considerably benefited by it as destruction of the affected plants kills the borers in them which otherwise would multiply.

Mr. MIR MAHOMED SAB.—If the Government insist on the removal of the affected plants, will they also arrange for planting fresh ones instead?